

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A bicycle comprising:
a frame;
5 a wheel supported by the frame and pivotable to steer the bicycle; and
a handlebar assembly coupled to the wheel and including:
an inner member movable to pivot the wheel;
an outer member at least partially surrounding a portion of the inner
member; and
10 a damping member disposed between the inner member and the outer
member and providing vibration damping between the wheel and the inner
member.
2. The bicycle of claim 1, wherein the inner member comprises a handlebar.
- 15 3. The bicycle of claim 1, wherein the damping member bonds the inner
member to the outer member.
4. The bicycle of claim 1, wherein the outer member includes a first end and
20 a second end and wherein the damping member extends beyond the first end and the
second end.
5. The bicycle assembly of claim 1, wherein the inner member and the outer
member cooperate to define an annular space sized to receive the damping member, and
25 wherein the annular space is about 1.4 mm thick.

6. The bicycle of claim 1, wherein the damping member includes a urethane rubber.

7. The bicycle of claim 1, wherein the outer member includes a window that
5 exposes at least a portion of the damping member.

8. The bicycle of claim 1, wherein the outer member includes a plurality of windows that expose at least a portion of the damping member.

10 9. The bicycle of claim 1, further comprising a stem that clamps the outer member to couple the handlebar assembly to the wheel.

10. A handlebar assembly adapted to be used with a steering stem, the handlebar assembly comprising:

a handlebar having hand positions;

an outer member at least partially surrounding a portion of the handlebar and

5 positioned to be clamped by the steering stem; and

a damping member disposed between the handlebar and the outer member.

11. The handlebar assembly of claim 10, wherein the damping member bonds the handlebar to the outer member.

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12. The handlebar assembly of claim 10, wherein the outer member includes a first end and a second end and wherein the damping member extends beyond the first end and the second end.

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13. The handlebar assembly of claim 10, wherein the handlebar and the outer member cooperate to define an annular space sized to receive the damping member, and wherein the annular space is between about 0.2 mm and 10 mm thick.

14. The handlebar assembly of claim 10, wherein the handlebar and the outer member cooperate to define an annular space having a thickness of about 1.4 mm.

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15. The handlebar assembly of claim 10, wherein the outer member completely surrounds a portion of the handlebar.

16. The handlebar assembly of claim 10, wherein the outer member is positioned to cover a central portion of the handlebar.

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17. The handlebar assembly of claim 10, wherein the damping member includes urethane rubber.

18. The handlebar assembly of claim 10, wherein the outer member includes
5 a window that exposes a portion of the damping member.

19. The handlebar assembly of claim 10, wherein the ratio of the thickness of the damping member to the length of the outer member is less than about 0.1.

20. A method of manufacturing a handlebar assembly, the method comprising:

forming a handlebar to have a first hand position and a second hand position;

positioning an outer member such that it at least partially surrounds a portion of

5 the handlebar;

injecting a material between the handlebar and the outer member; and

allowing the material to harden to form a damping member between the handlebar and the outer member.

10 21. The method of claim 20, wherein the injection step further includes bonding the handlebar to the outer member using the damping member.

22. The method of claim 20, further comprising supporting both the handlebar and the outer member in a mold during the injecting step.

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23. The method of claim 20, further comprising forming a window in the outer member to expose a portion of the damping member.